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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/993,711      | 11/05/2001  | Dennis D. Shumard    | 74240.0102          | 8389             |

7590 01/15/2003

George R. Shultz, P.C.  
Strasburger & Price, L.L.P.  
13601 Preston Road  
Suite 600W  
Dallas, TX 72202-3794

EXAMINER

COLLINS, GIOVANNA M

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3679

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>09/993,711   | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>SHUMARD, DENNIS D. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Giovanna M. Collins | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3679                   |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-69 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 9 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 10-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.                      6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-13 in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged.

Claims 14-69 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 5.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 9 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent 587131 to Vogelsang ('697).

Vogelsang discloses (see Fig. 3) a concentric pipe joint restraint, said restraint resisting axial movement of a spigot pipe (5) relative to a socket pipe (2) within which a portion of said spigot pipe has been inserted said spigot pipe and said socket pipe defining an annulus, said restraint comprising a spigot wedge ring (7) comprising one or more spigot gripping protrusions (9); socket wedge ring (13) comprising one or more socket gripping protrusions (near 13a), and a wedge housing (14) positioning said spigot wedge ring relative to said socket wedge ring with

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which it is in effective contact in said annulus such that said spigot gripping protrusions grip said spigot pipe and said socket gripping protrusions grip said socket pipe.

Referring to claim 2, Vogelsang discloses wherein said spigot wedge ring (7) further comprises a frusto-conical surface (8) and said socket wedge ring (13) further comprises an opposed frusto-conical surface (11) in effective contact with said frusto-conical surface.

Referring to claim 3, Vogelsang discloses wherein the gripping protrusions (at 13A and 9) are biased to prevent axial separation of the pipes.

Referring to claim 4, Vogelsang discloses wherein the frusto-conical surfaces (7 and 11) are biased to prevent axial separation of the pipes.

Referring to claim 9, Vogelsang discloses wherein the wherein the frusto-conical surfaces (7 11) are biased to prevent axial separation of the pipes.

Referring to claim 13, Vogelsang discloses wherein at least one wedge ring (13 and 7) further comprises circumferential end portions.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 5-8 and 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: It would not be obvious to modify Vogelsang to have an actuator or to have the gripping protrusions and frusto-conical surface biased to prevent axial compression of the pipes.

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***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Giovanna M. Collins whose telephone number is 703-306-5707. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on 703-308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

gmc  
January 9, 2003

  
**Lynne H. Browne**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Technology Center 3670**